

THE COURSE IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS AT TEACHERS' COLLEGE

BY M. ADELAIDE NUTTING

ON the twenty-fifth of September the Course in Hospital Economics at Teachers' College was opened for its ninth year of work. Thus attesting, we venture to think, the soundness and vitality of the ideas which brought it into existence. Those who are not familiar with these ideas should refer to the transactions of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools. At their fifth convention held in Toronto in 1897 a paper was presented by Mrs. Hunter Robb calling attention to the fact that superintendents of nurses were also teachers and heads of training schools and that as such they needed a special preparation for their work which could only be supplied in a place devoted to the training of teachers, and suggesting further that the desired uniformity in the work of training schools might perhaps be brought about when some uniform method of training our teachers could be provided. The formation of a committee with Mrs. Robb as chairman, her visits to the Dean of Teachers' College, her presentation to the society the following year of a detailed plan for an advanced course of study for nurses at the college, the prompt way in which the society pledged itself to support her plan, and the subsequent steps by which, within a year, a course for the training of teachers of nurses was established, and two students were actually in attendance, are matters of history, interesting and instructive, which may all be found in her records of the Society.

Though the number of students has never been large, the average not exceeding six yearly, and though means have been lacking for the proper development of the course in certain practical ways, yet the work as a whole has not only held its own, it has steadily gained ground. Miss Anna L. Alline, one of the two students of the first class to enter, was persuaded to remain in charge of the class, and so great was her interest that she stayed on for several years, giving the work her best thought and attention, only leaving it recently to take the very important appointment of inspector of nurse training schools in the State of New York, a post which we can hardly help feeling is almost a logical outcome of the educational work in which she has been engaged at the College.

Under her direction a two years' curriculum leading to a special diploma has been developed. A good field for practice teaching for the

students has been obtained in a training school near the College (the Laura Franklin School for Nurses), and other improvements have been effected which will be noted later. Her faithful, steady devotion to the interests of the students, and her loyalty to the Society of Nurses which she represented in the College, have never failed, but she has worked so quietly and unostentatiously, that few of us perhaps fully realize how much we owe her. For the coming year few changes are contemplated. A new series of lectures—a very practical one on Hospital laundries—has been added to the course, and will be given by Miss Clara D. Noyes, Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford, Mass. Mr. Charles Butler, whose excellent course of lectures on Hospital Architecture was so much appreciated by the students last year, has undertaken to give a longer and fuller course this year, and to make it more practical by a series of carefully arranged visits to specially selected hospitals.

A plan is on foot to open these special courses of lectures to a limited number of outside students—graduate nurses who are interested in the various phases of institutional work which these lectures deal with—to those for instance who find the hospital laundry something of a problem—the very practical course of lectures which Miss Noyes will give should prove very useful. It is believed also that a good many would be glad of an opportunity to attend the lectures given by Mrs. Robb and others, whose wide experience in hospital and training-school matters enables them to speak with unquestionable authority on the various phases of nurses' training and of nurses' work.

The lecture courses are here outlined in the order in which it is expected that they will come during the year, but the exact dates will be set a little later. A small fee will be charged for admission to any one of the series.

In the absence of Miss Dock, whose lectures are scheduled to begin the year, the course will begin with Mr. Butler's lectures on Hospital Administration on October 25th.

History of Nursing and of Hospitals, Miss Lavinia L. Dock.

Hospital Planning, Charles Butler, B.A., A.D.G.

Working Essentials and Hospital Construction, Miss Annie W. Goodrich.

Hospital Administration, Miss Maud Banfield.

Hospital Laundries, Miss Clara D. Noyes.

Training-School Administration, Mrs. Isabel Hampton Robb.

Training-School Administration, Miss M. M. Riddle.

Applications should be made to Miss Nutting.